

## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 7, 2003. Claims 1-30 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 9, 27, 29, and 30 are in independent form. Each of the claims have been amended as to formal matters, and not to overcome any of the rejections discussed below. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 11, 12, 15-18, and 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,088,004 (Domae et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,316 (Nolan et al.); and that Claims 3, 8, 10, 13, 14, 19, 10, and 27-30 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domae et al. in view of Nolan et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,018,332 (Nason et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that independent Claims 1, 9, 27, 29, and 30, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a display control device for controlling to display pictures in a plurality of display areas on a screen respectively. The pictures are from a plurality of signal sources connected to signal lines.

The display control device includes an attributes information memory and a notification unit. The memory is adapted to store display attributes information for each of the plurality of display areas. The notification unit is adapted to notify the plurality of signal sources of each of the stored display attributes information.

Domae et al. relates to an image display system for bowling lanes, in which an

image from one of a plurality of image sources is selected to be displayed on a plurality of monitors or is split into images for multi-screen displaying. As understood by Applicant, Domae et al. teaches that the controller may split an image so that one image may be displayed on a plurality of monitors or may be spread over a plurality of monitors, and that  $n$  units of masking monitors 14 are installed on  $n$  lanes  $L$  (see column 5, lines 23-33). That is, an image source 21a or 21b together with multi-screen display controlling means 22a or 22b are used to take a single image and split it into  $n$  images to be displayed together on the masking monitors 14. Alternatively, the multi-screen display controlling means 22a takes an image from the image source 21a and splits it into images for multi-screen displaying on the first through  $k$ th masking monitors 14.

Nolan et al. relates to a system for improving graphics controllers through management of multiple configurations for display on a portable personal computer (PC). As understood by Applicant, the Nolan et al. system allows a user to dynamically switch monitors without reconfiguring the refresh rates of "legacy" monitors. By separating the refresh rates for legacy monitors and plug-and-play monitors into default and active registers, plug-and-play software is prevented from disturbing the default rates for legacy monitors (see column 13, lines 28-32). Thus, the Nolan et al. system is understood to enable a user to connect different monitors, at different times, to a PC without creating configuration problems.

Nason et al. relates to computer user interface displays and a system that uses an overscan border to present a user interface from extending beyond the perimeter of a standard user interface display. Generally, a desktop is restricted to a predetermined set of resolutions

(e.g., 640X480, 800X600, 1024X768, as defined by VGA and SuperVGA standards) in its common area. A displayable border outside this area is understood to be the overscan border. Apparently, the Nason et al. system allows for adding a user interface border beyond the standard screen display area (see column 1, lines 58 and 59). That is, Nason et al. is understood to disclose a programming mechanism and interface in a computer system, which provides access and visibility to a portion of a monitor display that normally is inaccessible.

Applicant submits that a combination of Domae et al., Nolan et al., and Nason et al., assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest a display control device that includes "an attributes information memory, which stores display attributes information for each of the plurality of display areas," and "a notification unit, which notifies the plurality of signal sources connected to the signal lines of each of the stored display attributes information," as recited in Claim 1.

It is well known that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the prior art references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); MPEP 2143.01. The references must be viewed without the benefit of impermissible hindsight vision gleaned from Applicants' disclosure. Hodosh v. Block Drug Co., Inc., 786 F.2d 1136, 1143 n.5, 229 USPQ 182, 187 n.5 (Fed. Cir. 1986); MPEP 2141.

In addition to the suggestion or motivation to combine discussed above, it is well established that a *prima facie* case of obviousness also requires two other basic criteria:

there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and the references, when combined, must teach or suggest all the claimed limitations.

Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established against Claim 1 or any of the other independent claims. As discussed above, the Domae et al. system displays an image on multiple monitors, the Nolan et al. system allows for a user to connect different monitors at different times to a PC without having to reconfigure the refresh rates of legacy monitors, and Nason et al. system provides access and visibility to a portion of a monitor display that normally is inaccessible. No suggestion or motivation has been found in the cited references to combine the teachings of Domae et al., Nolan et al., and Nason et al. in the manner proposed in the Office Action.

Further, Applicant submits that nothing in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art, would suggest or motivate a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the cited references as proposed in the Office Action.

Furthermore, a reasonable expectation of success has not been established for the proposed combination of references.

Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established in the Office Action with respect to Claim 1 or any of the other independent claims.

As discussed above, the display control device of Claim 1 controls the display of picture signals from a plurality signal sources on multiple areas of a display screen respectively. Attribute information for each of the multiple areas is stored in the memory, and the plurality of signal sources are notified of the stored attribute information of each of the

multiple areas. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references even suggests that a display screen can have multiple areas each having its own respective attribute information, with the attribute information of each area being stored in the memory and notified to the plurality of signal sources.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claims 27, 29, and 30 are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons as for Claim 1.

Additionally, in regard to Claim 9, none of the cited references is understood to disclose or suggest creating display selection information based on identification signals relating to pictures from a plurality of signal sources; appropriating the pictures to a plurality of display areas on a screen according to the created display selection information; and notifying the plurality of signal sources of the created display selection information, as claimed in Claim 9. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 9 is patentable over the cited art and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

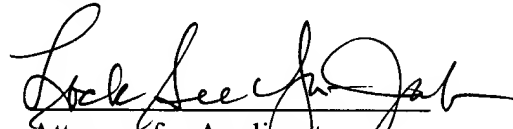
The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and therefore are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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